

# The Sydney Morning Herald.

PRICE THREEPENCE.—28 PER ANNUM.] VOL. XXXL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 1851.

No. 4501 { CASH TERMS FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

STEAMER FOR WOLLONGONG.  
THE WILLIAM THE  
FOURTH, This Evening,  
at 6 p.m.  
Phoenix Wharf, Erskine-street.  
October 18. 7827

STEAM TO THE HUNTER.  
THE THISTLE, on  
Monday and Thursday,  
at 10 a.m.  
THE ROSE, on Wednes-  
days and Saturdays, at 10 a.m.  
JAMES PATERSON, Manager,  
A.N.C. Co.'s Wharf. 7475

STEAM TO MORETON BAY.  
THE EAGLE,  
J. J. Warner, commander,  
will sail on MONDAY, the  
20th instant, at 8 a.m.  
JAMES PATERSON, Manager,  
A.N.C. Co.'s Wharf. 7793

FOR MORETON BAY.  
THE H. R. Schooner  
will clear at the Customs  
This Day, and sail This  
Evening.

For freight or passage apply to the  
captain, on board; or to  
W. U. HARRIS, Agent,  
At the Wharf.  
Flour Company's Wharf. 7831

FOR MORETON BAY.  
THE H. E fine Schooner  
LAVINA, 90 tons, H. Wyborn, master,  
having part cargo en-  
gaged, will sail on Tuesday next, the 21st instant.  
This vessel's accommodations are equal  
to any in the trade. Beds, bedding, wines and  
spirit, found free of charge.

For freight or passage apply to Captain Wyo-  
born, on board, or to  
HENRY CLARKE,  
Union Wharf. 7784

FOR MORETON BAY.  
THE ketch EMILY,  
Callas, master, being  
under charter to perform cer-  
tain services at the Bay,  
will therefore take what goods may offer at a  
very reasonable rate, and will load for Ipswich

For freight or passage, apply to  
JOHN MORRIS, Agent,  
Albion Wharf (foot of Market-street). 7877

PACKET FOR WIDE BAY.  
THE fine BRIGANTINE  
MARGARET AND MARY,  
120 tons, Currie, master,  
having all her dead weight on board, will sail  
Monday next—being detained till that time at  
the port of departure, to receive  
passenger accommodations for  
passengers are most superior.

For freight or passage apply to  
JOHN MORRIS, Agent,  
Packet Office, (Albion Wharf). 7875

FOR KEMPSPEY, M'LEAY RIVER.  
THE GLENDAURANT  
will be ready to receive  
cargo on Tuesday morning,  
and positively sail on Wednesday afternoon, at  
three o'clock. Apply on board at the Albion  
Wharf; or to  
WM. DALTON, Church-hill.

FOR THE CLARENCE RIVER.  
THE E. well-known fa-  
vorite brigantine  
HANNAH.

is now receiving cargo, will clear at the  
Customs Tuesday next, and sail the day  
following, full or not full.

For freight or passage (having very superior  
accommodations), apply to  
JOHN MORRIS, Agent,  
Albion Wharf, foot of Market-street. 7876

FIRST VESSEL FOR THE CLARENCE  
RIVER.  
THE E. Al Clipper  
Schooner  
CLARENCE PACKET,  
110 tons, Bonnard, commander,  
having the greater part of her cargo engaged,  
will sail positively on Tuesday next. For  
freight or passage (having superior accom-  
modation) apply to  
EDWARD DAVIES,  
Davies' Wharf, bottom of Market-street. 7864

FOR THE MORUYA RIVER DIRECT,  
The nearest landing place to the Gold Mines.  
THE fast-sailing and  
well-known schooner  
SUSANNAH.

is now loading at the Union  
Wharf, and will sail positively on Monday,  
8th, wind and weather permitting. For  
freight or passage apply to Captain Gregory,  
on board; or to  
THOMAS STANTON,  
Union Wharf.

N. B.—Passengers going by this vessel are  
requested to bring their luggage on board this  
day.

PACKETS FOR VICTORIA.  
FIRST VESSEL FOR MELBOURNE.  
THE first class brig  
ESPERANZA, Collins, commander, has room  
for twenty tons of freight, and  
will sail on Tuesday morning. The cabin and  
berth of this fine vessel offers great accom-  
modation to passengers. Apply to Captain Collins,  
Port Phillip Packet Office, 489, George-  
street. 7724

FOR MELBOURNE DIRECT,  
To FOLLOW THE ESPERANZA.

THE E. BRIGANTINE  
HIBONDELLE,  
S. Lapthorn, commander,  
is now loading at the Flour  
Company's Wharf, and will have immediate  
freight or passage apply to Captain Gregory,  
on board; or to  
E. M. SAYERS,  
Port Phillip Packet Office, 489, George-  
street. 7725

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MARY STEWART,  
Only Packet for Geelong.

SHIPPERS are re-  
quested to give all cer-  
tainty, & to complete  
their shipments without delay  
to prevent disappointment. Superior accom-  
modation for passengers (beds, bedding, wine  
&c. free of charge). Apply on board at the  
Flour Company's Wharf; or to  
SHIPPARD AND ALGER,  
Packet office, 476, George-street.

FOR HOBART TOWN.  
THE fine fast-sailing  
brig  
TRITON,  
Maybe, master, will leave  
on Wednesday morning, October 22. Superior  
accommodation for cabin passengers. For  
freight or passage, apply on board; or to  
JAMES COOK,  
Circular Quay. 7884

FOR SALE, FREIGHT, OR CHARTER,  
THE fine fast-sailing  
British-built Schooner  
DESLANDES,  
145 tons, Philip Bertram,  
commander, who carries a large cargo, sail  
remarkably fast, and is a great sea-boat,  
well found, and now ready to sail. For  
further particulars apply to  
R. T. FORD,  
8, Bridge-street. 7839

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES,  
NOTICE is hereby given, that the  
Proprietors of this Bank will be held at the  
Banking House, George-street, on Wednesday,  
the 22nd day of October next, at noon, to  
consider the Report of the Directors to the  
Bank; to elect a Director in the room of Daniel  
Cooper, jun., Esq., and an Auditor in the room  
of E. C. Weeks, Esq., who retire by lot; and  
to consider the Report of the Directors to the  
Bank, at the ensuing election, vis.—  
Robert Tooth, Esq., Kent Brewery, Sydney,  
George John Rogers, Esq., Sydney,  
Chemist, 392, George-street, near Royal Hotel.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
Committee Rooms, Balmain, October 16. 7844

FIRST SHIP FOR LONDON,  
To sail positively on the 26th instant.

THE fine first-class Ham-  
burg brig  
MONTEFIORI,  
250 tons, will sail positively  
on the above mentioned day, and be under  
charter to call at Cows, offers a good opportunity  
for passengers for England, who will find  
good accommodations at moderate rates. For  
freight or passage apply to  
AUGUSTUS DREUTLER; or,  
KIRCHNER AND CO.,  
Macquarie-place. 7220

FIRST SHIP FOR LONDON,  
To sail positively on the 26th instant.

THE fine first-class Ship  
BOLIVAR,  
has only room for 50 bales of  
Wool, which will be taken without being  
pressed or screwed.

For freight or passage apply to Captain  
Murray, on board; or to  
SMITH, CAMPBELL, AND CO.,  
Or J. B. METCALFE,  
October 17. 7824

FOR WOOL AND PASSENGERS ONLY.  
FOR LONDON.

THE first-class barque  
STRATHEDEN,  
429 tons register, F. Turner,  
commander. The whole of  
her dead weight, and more than half remainder  
of her cargo being ready to go on board, this  
vessel will be despatched about the 1st De-  
cember. The passage is to be  
superior. For freight or passage apply to  
YOUNG AND CO., or to  
WILLIS, MERRY, AND CO.,  
Bank of New South Wales, Sydney, September 22, 1851. 6131

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES,  
Sydney, September 26, 1851.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the  
undermentioned Proprietors have given  
the necessary powers of attorney to become  
candidates for the office of Director in this  
Bank at the ensuing election, vis.—  
Philip Bertram, Esq., Kent Brewery, Sydney,  
George John Rogers, Esq., Sydney,  
Chemist, 392, George-street, near Royal Hotel.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
R. T. BAILLIE, Secretary. 6342

FOR SALE, FREIGHT, OR CHARTER,  
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HEALTH PRESERVED.

GOLD MINERS and others pro-  
tecting to the Country should take a sup-  
ply of

ABRAHAM'S BAKING POWDER,  
for making light and whole-cake bread, cakes,  
crisps, &c., without yeast. Sold in packets,  
at 6d., 1s., and 2s. 6d. each, by A. ASHMAN,  
Chemist, 392, George-street, near Royal Hotel.

By order of the Board of Directors,  
R. T. BAILLIE, Secretary. 7871

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THE WILLIAM THE  
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at the Sydney Stores, formerly occupied by the late John Betts, Esq., with large rare opportunity of buying a first-rate article at their own prices.

Kings

marbles, sponge mugs

4 dozen gold keepers

5 dozen neck combs

#### FRENCH STAY WAREHOUSE,

211, Pitt-street, Sydney.

**VICTOR PROTOIS**, in returning his sincere thanks to his customers and the public in general for the kind patronage bestowed upon his establishment, begs they will continue to honour him with the same favour: and he has now the pleasure to inform them that he has received, per last arrival, an assortment of goods comprising—

Muslins, French and English Printed and plain saree, ditto ditto Organzine, ditto ditto Tabitan, ditto ditto *Alpaca*, in material for dresses Prints and cases Gloves of every description Stockings ditto ditto Gents' and children's socks Ditto ditto boys' shirts Ladies' under linens Gents' and ladies' vests and drawers Ladies' and children's boots and shoes Perfumery, French and English 1000 pds. French stays, from 18 to 36 inches, 200 yards coulisse French pour corsets, coarse thread and Valenciennes lace of all widths A large assortment of French and English blouses, also crapes of all colours for dresses.

N.B.—Opened this day, two cases of French bonnets, suitable for the present season. 7524

**A HOME for the GOLD MINERS.**—  
The BUSH TENT, 9 feet square by 8 feet high, for Thirty-five Shillings; on view at J. R. TORRE'S, Free Trade Hall, 96, King-street.

The great desideratum, namely, *facility of service*, which this Tent affords, it being easily portable, weighing only twelve pounds, together with unprecedented lowness of price, great durability of material, &c., &c., singularly adapt it to the convenience and comfort of Gold Miners. On reaching their destination, where a prompt and effective shelter is of paramount importance, and for this purpose the Bush Tent has been especially constructed.

7525

**PRELIMINARY NOTICE.**  
Great Saving to all parties requiring Outfits for the Diggings.

**THE Proprietor of Waterloo House, King-street, has determined to submit the Entire Stock of Linen and Woollen Drapery, Ready-made Clothing, Hosiery, Haberdashery, &c., to an immediate and unreserved sale, without the slightest regard to cost.**

The Shop and Tailoring Department will be closed for a few days, to prepare and re-market the goods; and further particulars will appear in a future advertisement.

The Lease of the premises to be disposed of.

7766

**TO DRAPERS, SHIPPERS, STOREKEEPERS, &c.**—The undersigned have received, ex late arrivals, a large and varied assortment of plain and fancy Drapery, which, in addition to their usual extensive assortment, they are determined to sell at very low rates.

WM. DRYAN AND CO., 7564, Warehousemen, 391, Pitt-street North.

**TO STOREKEEPERS, SETTLERS, &c., &c.**—  
**ROSSITER AND LAZARUS.** Wholesale Drapery and Importers, George-street, nearly opposite the Bank of New South Wales, would beg to direct the attention of the above to their large and varied stock of Drapery, Clothing, Woollens, Gloves, &c., &c., suitable for the approaching season.

Next Mr. Barnett, Wholesale Grocer. 469

**COURT DRESS OF GEORGE L.** The undersigned has for sale, a most complete superb dress of the above period, including sword, &c. Price £25.

R. M. LINDSAY,

Kent-street, near the Hunter River Wharf. 7765

**PERFUMERY.** Few cases of Houbigant Chardin's celebrated perfume, containing

Amberd lavender

Spirits of lavender

24 assorted scents

Eau de Cologne

Anti-freckle vinegar

Pomatum, &c.

Philosene, &c.

D. N. JOUBERT,

689, George-street.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.** Ex Phision and Eliza Carolina.

**THE** undersigned begs to acquaint his customers, and **STOKELEY'S** and **DRUGISTS** generally, that he has just received by the above vessel, 97 PACKAGES OF DRUGS, &c., and he takes this opportunity of reminding purchasers of Medicines, that as his stock is REPLENISHED EVERY THREE MONTHS from one of the most respectable Houses in London, they may always rely on obtaining from his establishment articles of THE VERY BEST description, at prices which cannot fail to give satisfaction.

JOHN ROW,

93, King-street, Sydney.

**DARLING NURSERY, SYDNEY.** **THE** undersigned has on sale, at reduced prices:—

Stove plants

Greenhouse plants

Hardy plants

Ornamental trees

Fruit trees

Forest trees

Flower beds

Vegetable seeds

including many varieties never before offered to the public of New South Wales.

T. W. SHEPHERD.

N.B.—Glazed cases always on hand, ready for shipment to any part of the world.

The trade supplied on liberal terms. 688

**OLD** purchased at the highest mark, and price by

L. AND S. SPYER,

Spring-street.

689

#### GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

*The Largest and Best Assortment in the Colony.*  
Just Landied, ex Vichy and Eliza Carolina.

**THE** Advertiser would particularly recommend the attention of the public to the above. He has, however, more particularly those who are in want of a *Gold Good Timelkeeper*, for never has he had an opportunity of doing so with greater confidence than at present, the whole of the watches received by the above vessels having been carefully examined and regulated in position before leaving the manufacturer's hands: nothing more is therefore necessary to insure their proper performance, than merely winding of them up.

*Silver Patent Lever Watches*, in £ s. d.

double backed engine-turned cases, capped and jewelled, detached escapement maintaining power, and all the recent improvements. 4 10 0

*Silver Patent Lever Watches*, in double backed engine-turned cases, highly finished 4-plate movements, jewelled in 10 holes, compensation balance hands to mark the seconds, with silver or enamelled dials, detached escapement maintaining power, and all the recent improvements. 5 5 0

*Gold Patent Lever Watches*, in double backed engine-turned cases, highly finished 4-plate movements, jewelled in 10 holes, compensation balance hands to mark the seconds, with gold and extra hard enamelled dials, detached escapement maintaining power, and all the recent improvements. 10 12 6

*Gold Horizontal Watches*, jewelled in 4 holes, 4-plate movements in double backed engine-turned cases, set hands at back, gold joints to cases, with going barrel to continue the action while winding. 3 10 0

*Gold Horizontal Watches*, jewelled in 4 holes, 4-plate movements in double backed engine-turned cases, set hands at back, with elec-

tricised gold tails, going barrels to continue the action while winding, and all the recent improvements. 5 17 6

**Every watch sold at this establishment is warranted for two years, and a written guarantee given, should the watch require fresh oil, or other attention within the period of warranty it will be done free of charge; after that time, it will be cleaned and adjusted on the payment of 3s. 6d. if the paten lever construction, or 4s. if of the horizontal; and no further charge will be made for attention during the time preceding the sale.**

The expression of repairing a watch which has been accidentally broken, (or of one by another maker), may be known by enquiry at the time of its being left: the skill with which a watch is repaired and adjusted is of almost as much importance as its quality: the best watch, cleaned by an unskilful workman, will not go well. Possibly it may be an exaggeration to say, that more watches are spoiled by being repaired by unskilful hands, than by experienced workmen, who are sent out by the public for repair, injury which a bad workman does is often of a kind that can never be satisfactorily repaired.

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**Gold Guard Chains, in great variety**

Ditto Albert Chains and Keys

Ditto Ladies' Neck Chains and Chatelaines

These Chains are all of the most new and elegant designs, being all London-made, and are warranted of the very best quality. The price is regulated according to the weight.

A Chain weighing 2 sovereigns £ 2 10 0

Ditto 3 sovereigns 3 10 0

Ditto 4 sovereigns 4 10 0

London-made Sterling Silver Guard

Chains. 0 12 6

Best English Lunette Watch Glasses, fitted for

One Shilling. D. DAVIS,

6900 475, George-street.

**REAL PEBBLE SPECTACLES.**—

Warranted real Pebble Spectacles, from Eleven shillings and sixpence to Fourteen shillings.

**GOOGLES on EYE PROTRACTORS**, for preserving the sight from being injured by dust, from Two shillings and threepence, to

Four shillings and threepence. 7739

At M. BIRNSTINGL'S.

**RICHARD COWAN**

At the stores of—

G. E. R. LINGARD,

7699 Circular Quay.

**SUMMER WINES.**

WHITE and Red Colonial Wine, in

wood and bottles

Claret, " Paulliac," in 1 dozen cases

Ditto " Chateau Lorge," ditto

Sauvigne, hock, busselais, champagne

Port wine, sherry, and marsala, in quarter-

casks and cases

Ditto, London bottled, in 3 dozen cases

Port wine, hogheads and quarters

Sherry, pale and gold, ditto ditto

Port wine, hogheads and quarters

Champagne, in 1 dozen cases

Claret, in ditto, 1 dozen cases

Sherry, in ditto, 1 dozen cases

Port, in ditto, 2 and 3 dozen cases

Mountain, in quarter-casks

Ale, Stout, Tennent's, in hogheads

Ale, ditto, in quart, 4 dozen casks

Port, ditto, in ditto, ditto ditto

Ditto, ditto, in quart, 7 dozen cases

Port, ditto, in quart, 6 dozen casks

Porter, ditto, in ditto, ditto ditto

An invoice of Ebwank's, and of horse-shoe

nails

Ditto painter's colours, turpentine, glue,

and whitening

Ditto stationery

Ditto perfumery

Soda

Tumblers

Earthenware

Woolen, wool-bagging, and three-

bushel bags

Soyer's magic stoves

Liquorice nuts

Olman's stores

Spades and shovels

Some sets miners' tools

Hops (Belgian), a fine sample.

MONTEFIORE, GRAHAM, AND CO.

WOOLPACKS, BAGGING, AND THREE-

BUSHEL SACKS.

ON SALE, at the stores of the un-

dertained—

Woolpacks, 9, 9½, and 10 lbs.

Woolbagging, 27-inch stout

Heavy hemp three-bushel bags

English cheese, double Gloucester and Cheddar,

in prime condition

Forty crates earthenware, well assorted

Canary seed

Patent smutting machines

Bookbinders' leather

And,

A general assortment of seasonable Drapery

Goods, now landing, by the last arrivals.

ASPINWALL AND CHALDER.

Bank Court, King-street.

October 11. 7340

**TO SAKERS AND MILLERS.**—

The undersigned has on hand, per ship

## THE VICTORIA GOLD FIELDS.

The Melbourne and Geelong journals received by yesterday's overland mail, contain very different accounts of the progress of the gold seekers to those with which they have amused their readers during the last fortnight. The arrival of the Government armed escort in Geelong, (by which conveyance the last number of the *Victoria Colonist* received by us stated, "that £17,000 worth of gold was en route to Geelong") had revealed the monstrous exaggerations of our Southern contemporaries whose love of the marvellous is proverbial. The total weight of gold brought down, after all these preliminary flourishes, is thus officially chronicled.

Yesterday, October 8th, the Government escort, in charge of Lieutenant Lidyard and four troopers, arrived at the Treasury, bringing *one thousand two hundred and thirty-seven ounces of gold*.

Still, however, hugging their fond delusion to the last, our contemporaries triumphantly add, that "the Sergeant in charge has told them that he was informed that more than double this quantity had been brought down by private parties, and that the success of the diggings was immense."

As the gold by private hands would soon get into the hands of the bankers, merchants, and other dealers in gold, we turn to the more sober commercial columns of our friends, and find in the following summary of the *Argus* what appears to be very like the truth:—

The tide has at length begun to ebb, and now that we are in possession of a good many of gold hunting under existing circumstances, are beginning to set their faces towards Melbourne. We have been informed that there are many at the diggings, who, instead of realising that amount of wealth which their excited imaginations led them to anticipate, are offering their services in any capacity, at the usual rate of wages; and there are some who are glad to work hard merely to earn a crust.

The prospecting parties, too, have met with some little expense, that their labour would have been more adequately rewarded in other common laborious pursuits; and our informants assure us that, as the majority of the treasure-seekers are not paying their expenses, it is their firm conviction that before the expiration of many days at least two thousand men will have returned to Geelong. We may anticipate, then, that events will soon resume their usual course; it is to be hoped that the foretaste of disappointment experienced by so many, early in the long run, will be productive of good, "as experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other."

Having quoted, at some length, the inflated published statements as to the finding of hundred and half hundred weights by various lucky individuals; of small parties making from £3000 to £4000 in four days; of an ounce of gold being freely given for a quarter of an ounce of tobacco, and others equally absurd instances, the *Argus* inquires into the true results, and thus dispenses of these fabrications.

Now what are the real facts of the case?—How much gold is showing itself in the towns?—Doubt upon it, that it will very shortly find its way there when found. A digger does not bury his treasure in the ranges; he does not carry it about his person. When once possessed of a sum of any amount, his first thought is to convey it to a place of safety, the most ready means for which are afforded by the chief towns. The sums handed about here and Geelong, then, afford about as accurate a test of the success of the diggers as could well be supposed.

Now, adding together all the samples exhibited, how many of our readers have seen their proper proportion of these weekly harvests of litres or hundreds of thousands of pounds? How many of them have seen even one thousand pounds worth? We have not, and from the courtesy of our merchants in furnishing us with data to prevent the misleading of the public, we are not in a favorable position to ascertain this. The weekly escort arrived yesterday. How much did it bring down? Five hundred ounces for the Government, value fifteen hundred pounds; three hundred and fifty-five ounces for Geelong, value twelve hundred pounds; three hundred and forty-four ounces for Melbourne, value about a thousand pounds; total value three thousand seven hundred pounds.

What lesson does this sum teach, when contrasted with the inflated reports we hear abroad on all sides?

It teaches us that we are acting the part of children, pleased with the rattle and glitter of a new toy. It teaches us that we are reviving the folly of the dog, who dropped the substance in keeping at the shadow. It teaches us that we are leading ourselves willingly to a pleasing dream, but it should also teach us that the waking may, to many of us, be terrible indeed.

We have no wish to disparage our gold field; we do not seek to step in between any man and his visions of sudden fortune. But we look with the warmest sympathy upon the unfortunate reader to many of whom the doings of the last week or two, will predict the early advent of a reaction, which will be disastrous to a degree; we would impress upon all such as are not yet thoroughly inoculated with the yellow fever, that they be cautious of infection, and we would urge upon newspaper conductors, newspaper writers, and even private gossips that there is deliberate wickedness in pandering to the passions of the time, and by fair or too highly coloured reports, betraying unthinking men to their misery and ruin.

In the face of these unmistakable proofs of the falsity of the generality of reports put forth by some of the other journals, it is truly ridiculous to read extracts from private letters from correspondents, exceeding, if possible, the extravagance of former reports. We are gravely told in the *Geelong Advertiser*, of a party of *seven* making £1000 in one day; of one

man filling and washing a dishful of earth, and, in twenty minutes extracting from it two pounds and a-half of gold, having previously refused £100 for the unwashed dish of earth; and of many other "guaranteed" facts; the correspondent winding up by solemnly asserting, that "it is of no use to tell the whole truth, for nobody would believe it." If the writer gets simpletons to believe one-half of what he has told, he deserves full credit for his inventive talent.

The Lieutenant-Governor returned to Melbourne on the 7th instant. His stay at Ballarat was a very brief one.

On the previous Saturday, writes a correspondent of the *Melbourne Herald*, His Excellency held a meeting at Ballarat, and addressed the miners, by whom he was most enthusiastically received. His Excellency pointed out to them the injury likely to accrue to our splendid colony if the crops could not be reaped for want of labour, and expressed his desire to withdraw the licences to dig, to coincide with the time when the harvest was fairly housed; during which time his allotted space should be carefully guarded, and returned to him. To the credit of the miners, this proposition was most warmly responded to by a very large majority, so that our harvest may now be considered safe. A long conversation then took place between his Excellency and the meeting, respecting the shortness of the present supply of water for mining purposes, when a plan was devised by which this could be remedied, by pumping up the stream at different portions of it. Throughout the whole time, Mr. La Trobe was warmly cheered, and the result of the meeting was most satisfactory.

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## COUNCIL PAPER.

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF ENQUIRY ON THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

The Board appointed by His Excellency the Governor, as notified in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 17th December, 1850, addressed to the Colonial Treasurer, President of the Board, and accompanying this report, to investigate and report upon,—

1st. The general management of the Post Office Department.

2nd. The system of checks in operation on its various officers. And

3rd. To offer any suggestions for the improvement of the system in force in these respects, and of the general efficiency of the department—

have agreed upon the following report.

## REPORT.

In pursuance of the above instructions, and with the view of affording the public an opportunity of bringing under our notice any complaints they might wish to make of any of the officers, or the conduct due to officers, with reference to the management of the Post Office department, we caused the following advertisement to be inserted in the *Government Gazette* and public newspapers.

"The Board appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the management of the General Post Office, now hold their meetings on Wednesday and Friday in each week, at the Post Office, in George-street, where any communications (not anonymous) will be received."

C. D. RIDDELL,  
Chairman of Board."

"Sydney, 3rd January, 1851."

This notice brings communications from various parts in Sydney and the country districts, some offering suggestions of more or less importance; others preferring complaints or offering evidence.

To all of them the utmost consideration has been given, and their communications disposed of by the adoption of such of their suggestions as appeared to us valuable, by inquiring ourselves into the complaints of some, and referring others to the Postmaster-General for explanation and report, and by receiving the evidence of all those who had expressed a desire of tendering the same.

We also examined a number of other persons of rank and intelligence, including the Postmaster-General himself, and most of the principal clerks in the establishment; and the Postmaster-General submitted to us a statement in reply to the evidence taken, and all books and documents in the office, which we desired to inspect.

The names of all the parties examined are inserted in the margin, and the evidence elicited, together with the Postmaster-General's remarks thereon, are referred to that Post.

Lastly, we proceeded to inspect the Post Office, as supervised by the Colonial Architect.

At the commencement of our proceedings, the Postmaster-General intimated his desire to be present at the Board to watch over the proceedings, and cross-examine the witnesses.

This proposition appeared to us objectionable, as tending to embarrass the investigation, leading to a course of intimidation, contention, and recrimination, utterly beyond the power of the Board to control or manage.

At the same time, the personal character or conduct of the Postmaster-General that we had to enquire into, but into the general management of the Post Office department over which he presided, and the result of which he had but in a degree more interested than any other person on the establishment.

We, however, conceded that the evidence taken should day by day be transmitted to the Postmaster-General for his information and guidance, coupled with an intimation that he might, if he wished, be called upon for re-examination that he thought proper, or might tender other evidence to rebut that taken.

Having disposed of the above preliminary points, we proceed, first, to report the result of our inquiries into the various matters submitted to our investigation, in the order in which they occur in the Colonial Secretary's letter of instructions, classing the same under different heads; and then to submit such suggestions to His Excellency the Governor, as we may, in our judgment, be justified in making, for the more effectual management of the Post Office department, and for securing to the public all the advantages they have a right to expect from such an establishment.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

This we find very defective.

1st.—There is an evident want of well organised system throughout the establishment, and the business is conducted in a loose and irregular manner.

2nd.—There is an absence of efficient control on the part of the Postmaster-General, and a want of proper subordination on the part of some of those placed under his superintendence.

3rd.—Party spirit prevails to a considerable extent, and its baneful influence pervades, more or less, the whole establishment; and there does not exist that unanimity and cordial co-operation amongst its numerous officers which is essential to the proper discharge of the important duties entrusted to it.

4th.—Few of the clerks are to be imbedded with a proper sense of the importance and necessity of dispatch, or the evils attendant upon delay. To most of them it appears a small matter whether letters or newspapers, and more especially the latter, are detained longer in the Post Office than absolutely necessary, or not.

5th.—The complaints of the public do not refer to the redress to which they are entitled, and many persons have caused themselves, from a conviction of its being useless to do so.

The Postmaster-General, in answer to such complaints, generally contented himself with advising, "that he is satisfied with the result of the enquiries he had made," without submitting the grounds of his satisfaction to the party complaining.

6th.—The country postmasters appear to be subjected to little or no control; all have been allowed to get into arrears, many of them to a considerable sum, for which the account for which their services are liable, and in some cases greater than the stoppage of their salaries for several years consecutively would enable the Government to recover. And

7th.—Although the Act of Council which requires all clerks in the Post Office to give security for the faithful discharge of their duties has now been in force for upwards of fourteen months, yet no such security has up to this period been given.

8th.—The general management we attribute to various causes.

1st.—To the fact, that the present and daily increasing postal requirements of the community have outgrown the capabilities of the department as at present constituted.

Established many years ago to meet the limited wants of a small society—not, as now, widely dispersed; and presided over for so long a period by the present Postmaster-General, a gentleman far advanced in years, it is not much to be wondered at, that the present imperfect management should partake, in a great degree, of the inactivity of habit.

2nd.—To the circumstance of so many of the Postmaster-General's family or connections being employed on the establishment, and all holding situations in its higher department, thereby engendering a feeling of discontent and jealousy in the minds of the other officers, and involving the suspicion of a partial distribution of favour and indulgence in the hands of their superior. And

3rd.—To the very inadequate accommodation afforded by the present Post Office, to meet the vast extent of business now required to be carried into effect by the administration of the Post Office department.

THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS IN OPERATION.

We regret to report that we consider there are in effect no checks, properly so called, in operation at all, either as regards the moneys collected by the letter carriers, or taken at the receiving and delivery windows by the clerks stationed there, or of the sums actually paid over to the Postmaster-General, as so collected or derived from other sources.

These irregularities and this absence of efficient checks we trace to the same causes to which we have attributed the general party spirit of the establishment.

1st.—That whatever the nature of the accounts kept in the Post Office establishment is, it is perfectly clear the Postmaster-General has the entire control of the cash, and renders his own account of its appropriation, notwithstanding there is an accountant, with assistants under him, attached to the establishment. But had it been otherwise, had the accountant exercised the most vigilant check over the cash receipts, and expenditure of the Postmaster-General, still the relative position in which they stand to each other, (that of father and son,) would have been a complete bar to the existence of anything like confidence on the part of the public; and hence another evil arises from employing so many members of the same family in the same public office.

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Having thus reported the result of our enquiry into the various matters referred to our investigation, we proceed to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, suggestions for the more efficient management of the Post Office department.

3rd.—To the very inadequate accommodation afforded by the present Post Office, to meet the vast extent of business now required to be carried into effect by the administration of the Post Office department.

Considering the nature and extent of the reforms so urgently required for the security of the revenue, and accommodation of the public, the age and increasing infirmities of the Postmaster-General, and above all, the fact of his having been so long at the head of a faulty system, the defects of which he has failed to correct or perceive, we are constrained, to believe, such extensive reforms could never be carried into effect under the administration of the present Postmaster-General.

We therefore strongly recommend that that gentleman should be allowed to retire on a pension of such an amount as his long public services may justly entitle him to receive.

In making this recommendation, we owe it to Mr. Raymond to state, and we do so with the utmost satisfaction, that in the whole course of our long and laborious enquiry, nothing transpired, in the slightest degree, affecting his reputation as a man of honor, or his character for probity and zeal as a public servant.

We would next suggest that some gentleman

of energy and business habits, possessed of

firmness and decision of character, and well

calculated to exercise that vigilant superin-

tendence so much needed in every branch of

the establishment, should be appointed Post-

master-General. And we think it would tend

greatly to the advantage of the public service

(subject to the control of His Excellency the Governor), as to the employment of clerks; the increase or reduction of their salaries, accord-

ing to their competency or otherwise, (without

reference to seniority;) their removal from one

branch of the establishment to another; and

finally, to their absolute dismissal if found idle,

profligate, or incompetent.

We only ascertain that the accounts and

vouchers submitted to our examination cor-

respond with each other, and are clerically

correct; and further that they are in confor-

mity with the existing regulations or other

written or unwritten authority; but whether those vouchers and

accounts are founded on facts or otherwise,

forms no part of our duty to enquire into.

In confirmation, however, of the correctness

of the conclusions at which we have arrived,

we have to state:—

1st.—There is no such thing as a cash book, showing debtor and creditor entries of moneys received and disbursed by the Postmaster-General; but at its stead there is a sort of memorandum book kept by the Postmaster-General, and in his own handwriting, and in which there are entries on one side only.

2nd.—It is admitted by Mr. Hunt, and all the other clerks examined, that at the receiving window up to three o'clock only is there any check, and at the delivery

window none whatever.

3rd.—There is no such thing as an intelligible

current kept with the Postmaster-

General, or with any of the country

